

NOTES

STATEWIDE:
The California Department of Education reported 1,480,527, or 25%, of the total state enrollment (5,951,612) as ELL students in 1999/00. Furthermore, 112,214 (7.8%) were redesignated as Fluent English Proficient.

RELATED INDICATORS:

- Free and Reduced Lunch
- 4th Grade Stanford 9 Reading/Math Scores
- Ave. Dollar Expenditure per Pupil
- Ave. Class Size
- High School Dropout and Graduation Rate
- SAT 1 & College Readiness

Indicator

Students identified as English Language Learners (ELL)

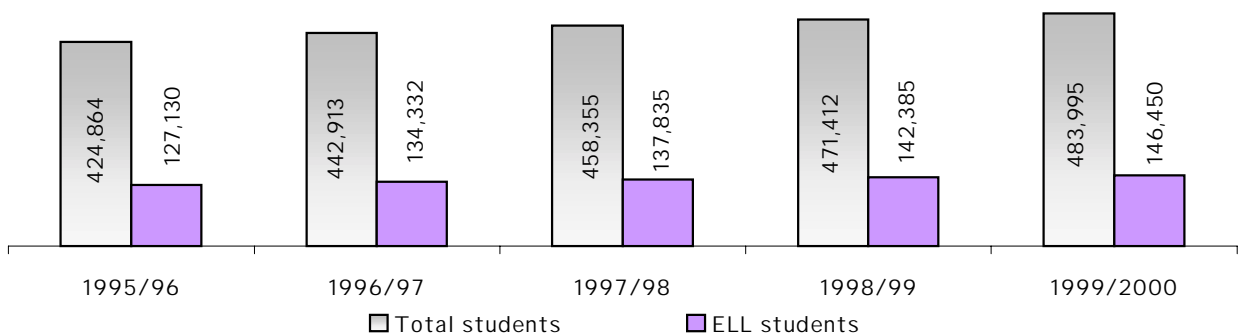
Definition

The number of K-12th grade students identified as ELL. According to Education Code 306 (a) "English Learner" means a child who does not speak English or whose native language is not English and who is not currently able to perform ordinary classroom work in English, formerly known as a Limited English Proficiency child. A student whose home language is other than English, as determined on the Home Language Survey, and has been assessed within 30 days of initial enrollment in English comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing using a state-designated instrument. Each district has established a process by which reading and writing assessments are to be made including specification of criteria, instruments, procedures, and standards appropriate to each grade level. For purposes of initial identification, an English oral, reading, and writing assessment is required for all students in K-2nd grade. Students in grades 3-12 are identified as English Learners on the basis of English comprehension in reading and writing as well as speaking and listening.

Findings

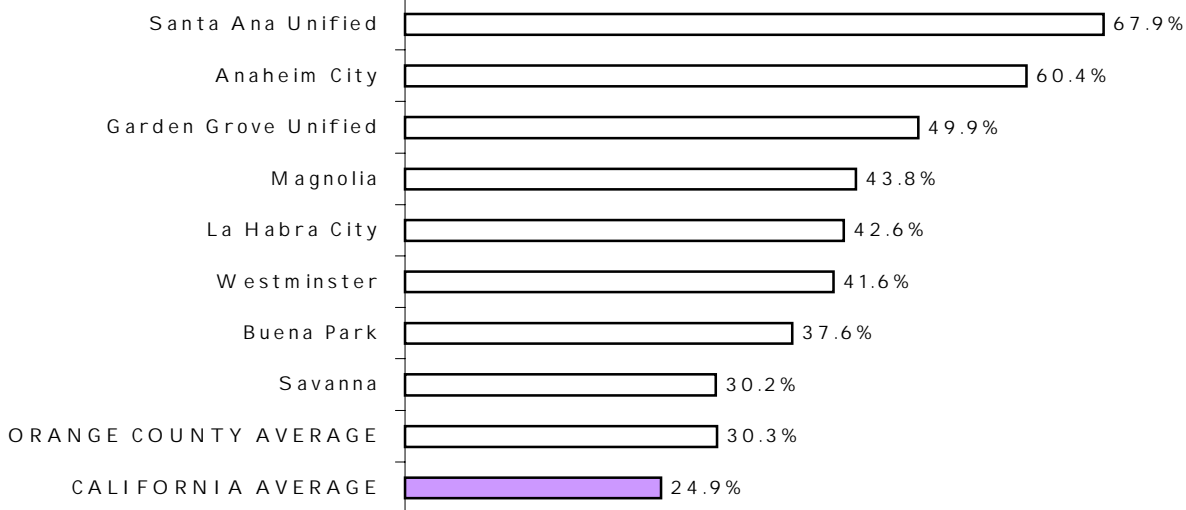
In 1999/2000, ELL students accounted for 146,450 (30.3%) of Orange County's total enrollment. There were 9,576, almost 7%, who were redesignated as Fluent English Proficient. The primary language for the majority of ELL students was Spanish, Vietnamese and Korean (82%, 8.5%, and 2%, respectively). See page 57 for the percentage of ELL students by school district.

ELL Student Growth in Orange County



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Districts with the Highest Percentage of ELL Students 1999/2000



Trends

From 1995/96 to 1999/2000, the total number of ELL students in Orange County public schools increased 15%. Based on this pattern of growth, ELL students will continue to be a large part of our public school system. As a percent of total public school enrollment, the number of ELL students has remained steady at around 30%. In California, Orange County continues to rank 2nd only to Los Angeles County in the total number of ELL students, 146,450 compared to 574,719, respectively, in 1999/00.

Summary

As discussed in the Academic Achievement Causes and Effects on page 63, ELL status, poverty, and test scores are highly interrelated.

Implications

All students are required to be proficient in English and meet academic standards. Because of this, it is important to understand the unique needs of English learners, particularly because difficulty speaking English may limit children's educational progress and their future employment prospects. To help teachers and administrators become aware of these specific needs, it is meaningful to focus on:

- Training that will address the issues of student achievement;
- Parent Education programs that give parents an understanding of what their children are learning in school; and
- Appropriate materials designed for this population that give these students the opportunity for greater academic participation and sound English language development.

NOTES

NATIONWIDE:
In 1997/98, the national average percentage of English language learners, formerly Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, for public schools was 7.6%.¹

DATA SOURCE:
California Department of Education

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¹California State of Our Children, 2000